

TACTICAL VIGNETTE 99-3

Screen in a Snowstorm

WHAT'S
YOUR
NEXT
MOVE??



You are the commander of A Troop (Wolfpack), 1-201 Cavalry, the ground troop of the light division cavalry squadron of the 32nd Infantry Division (Light). Your division is deployed to the Republic of Urbuti (RU) in support of OPERATION BIG EASY. The RU recently seceded from the United States of Leinad (USL). Special Operations Forces (SOF) and other intelligence sources indicate that the USL will attempt an insurgency to overthrow the RU government and regain the province. On RU's western border is the country of Eus, an ally of USL, but not aggressive towards RU. The rules of engagement (ROE) allow for destruction of armed USL forces crossing the border into RU.

Squadron Mission: 1-201 Cav screens along PL SILVER from PL GOLD to PL LEAD and along PL GOLD between PL BRONZE and PL SILVER NLT 010900JUN1999 to identify and track insurgents entering the RU.

Squadron Commander's Intent: Purpose – I want to identify and track insurgents from the USL entering the RU and prevent them from harming civilians. Endstate – The squadron will continue to screen until relieved, and will have destroyed insurgents with Hellfires and rockets if possible, or have handed targets off to 1st Brigade.

Troop Mission: A, 1-201 Cav screens along PL SILVER from PL GOLD to PL LEAD NLT 010900NOV-1999 to identify and track insurgents entering the RU.

You task organized your troop in a scout/anti-tank (SCAT) configuration. You have four platoons with three scout HMMWVs and two AT HMMWVs each, for a total of 20 HMMWVs with six MK-19 platforms, six cal .50 platforms, and eight TOW platforms. You do not have a FIST, mortars, or a troop executive officer. You are re-

sponsible for maintaining continuous surveillance of Named Areas of Interest (NAIs) 1-8. Each observation post (OP) has either two or three vehicles, with a mix of scout and AT platforms. Your squadron commander (SCO) has accepted risk on the west flank of the squadron and assigned B and C Troops (8xOH-58D each) to screen along PL GOLD (NAIs 12-15) until the brigade cavalry troop from 1st Brigade can relieve the air troops. The air troops are also responsible for NAIs 9-11 along PL SILVER.

It is now 051000NOV1999; your troop has been screening for four days. There has been light civilian traffic across both borders. Satellite photos and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) indicate that, two days ago, two battalions of the USL Army moved out of their motor pools and barracks and began moving south. Yesterday, Eus issued a statement that the United States could no longer fly in its airspace. A situation is developing and you monitor the following radio traffic:

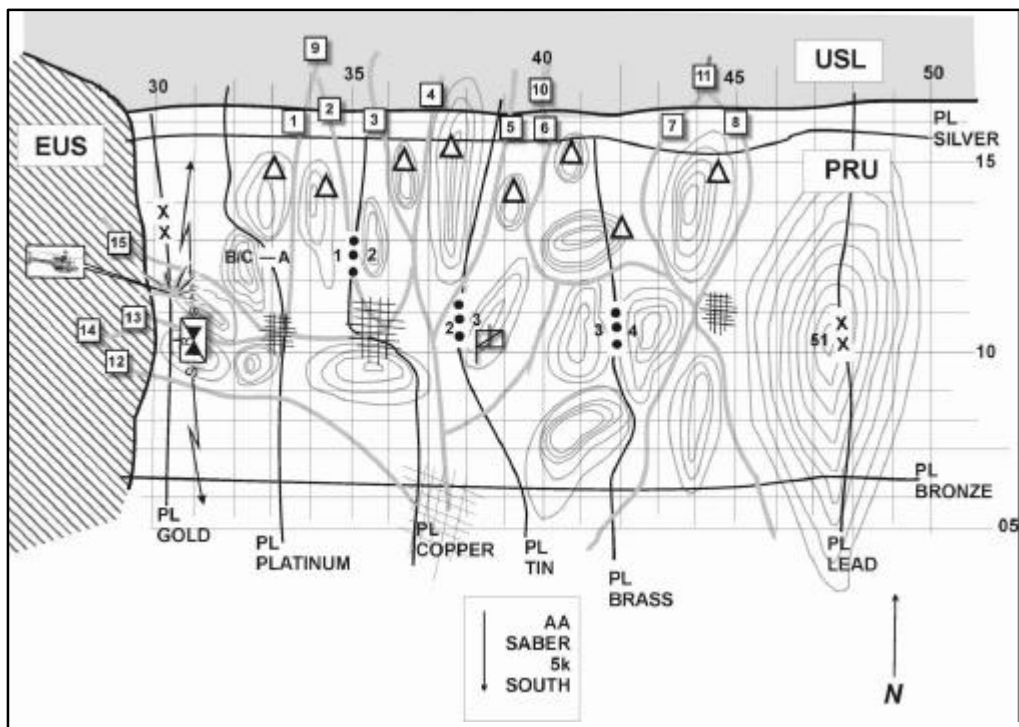
- At 051005, you hear the following radio transmission on your squadron command net from B Troop commander to the SCO: "Saber 6, this is Bulldog 6, I have lost contact with Bulldog 26, break. At last contact, he had nothing to report at NAIs 12-14 and was returning from the FARP enroute to NAI 15, break. The ceiling has dropped to 50 feet with 100 meters visibility, so I cannot get another team to Bulldog 26's location, break. Request assistance from Wolfpack to reestablish contact with Bulldog 26, over."

- The squadron S2 reports that there is a snowstorm moving in that will probably last for two days.

- C Troop commander reports that his troop is closed on AA Saber and that flying is extremely dangerous.

- You receive the following spot report from your 2nd platoon, observing NAIs 3 and 4: "Wolfpack 6, this is White 1, contact, three T-34s moving south, vi-

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cinity NAI 3, break. I will lose visual contact in approximately five mikes, break. Recommend that Red reposition to continue to track the vehicles, over.”

- The weather has gotten worse and you can no longer talk to the squadron TOC.

- You hear a weak radio transmission: “Any Wolfpack element, this is Bulldog 26, I am on the ground at GV305120, break. I had an engine failure and had to land. There is a group of about five personnel observing me 500 meters to the north, they appear unarmed, break. We spotted one T-55 moving east last seen approximately 1.5 kilometers NNW of NAI 16, request assistance, over.”

What do you do?

Requirement: You have five minutes to decide what to do and issue your FRAGO as you would if speaking on the radio. Submit your solutions by e-mail to: taylorde@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil or by regular mail to Cavalry Branch, Doctrine Division, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-C, Ft. Knox, KY 40121-5210. [[View Sample Solution](#)]

Solutions to this vignette will appear in the September-October 1999 issue of ARMOR.